

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By the present Amendment, Claims 9, 11 and 13 are amended to correct typographical errors.

In regard to the drawing objections, Applicant submits herewith substitute drawings which include the corrections indicated in the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review.

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that Claims 5, 8 and 11-15 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant does contend, however, that the remaining claims are also allowable, as will be explained.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 were each rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DVB Document A037 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,224 to Seki et al., Horvath et al., "A Novel, High-Speed, Reconfigurable, Demapper-Symbol Deinterleaver Architecture for DVB-T (hereafter, "the Horvath et al. article") and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0039322 A1) (hereafter, the "Murakami et al. application").

The §103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that neither the Horvath et al. article nor the Murakami et al. application can be used as prior art to reject the claims of the present application. The Horvath et al. article was published in July 1999. The parent patent application of the Murakami et al. application was filed in the United States on February 1, 1999. The present application is entitled to a foreign priority date of January 15, 1999, which is prior to the U.S. filing date of the Murakami et al. application, and which is also prior to the publication date of the Horvath et al. article. A certified copy, in the English language, of the priority application for the present application, i.e., EPO patent application No. 99100737.8, was

submitted with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 10, 2000, thereby perfecting the priority claim for this application. It will be seen that the claims of the present application are fully supported by the priority application.

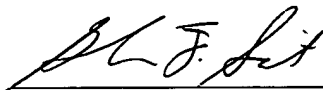
Accordingly, in light of the earlier effective filing date of the present application, both the Murakami et al. patent application reference and the Horvath et al. article are disqualified as prior art to the present application. Withdrawal of the §103 rejection based on Murakami et al. and Horvath et al. is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, and the allowance of this application with Claims 1-15 are respectfully solicited.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

Respectfully submitted,
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